



JOSEPH A. RICE
MILWAUKEE COUNTY SUPERVISOR

For Immediate Release
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NEW DAY DAWNS FOR LABOR RELATIONS IN MILWAUKEE COUNTY
State Law Flexibility Brings Responsibility to Workers and Taxpayers

June 29, 2011...Milwaukee, WI – Supervisor Joseph A. Rice today welcomed the implementation of Wisconsin Act 10 and the reforms it brings about in the relationship between Milwaukee County and employee groups.

“The formal enactment of the new State laws ushers in an era of opportunity for Milwaukee County. That opportunity includes the chance to bring greater accountability measures to the labor-management relationship and to reward employees for productivity and performance,” Rice indicated. “With it also comes a responsibility to prove to our valued employees that they need not feel threatened by changes in the collective bargaining laws.”

Rice indicated the recently-enacted State Budget Repair Bill provisions will help Milwaukee County address long-term budget deficits through benefit and other contractual changes that were not able to be achieved through negotiations with collective bargaining units. Rice will be seeking confirmation that the savings to be achieved from enactment of the new law’s provisions exceed reductions in state aid.

“I applaud Governor Walker and the Wisconsin Legislature for providing Milwaukee County with the means to better manage costs without layoffs or raising taxes. Rather than passing the pain onto Milwaukee County, State government has provided the tools to achieve the savings necessary to manage our budget without massive tax increases, layoffs or severe cuts in county services.”

Rice indicated that he will be working as a member of the County Board’s Personnel Committee to amicably create policies that take advantage of the new employment paradigm while respecting the critically important role county employees play in providing services to the county’s taxpayers.

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